



MONTEREY NEWS

AUGUST 1987



BOARD OF ASSESSORS' REPORT

The Board of Assessors is in the midst of a complete revaluation of the town as part of the tri-annual state certification requirements which were implemented a few years ago. This certification process involves state investigation of the method of assessment in the town, as well as random sampling of assessments of particular properties to ascertain that the method is uniformly applied to all parcels in town.

The state has already paid us a few visits and made some preliminary suggestions to the Board. One of these was that the Board should increase the "time-location modifier": all the assessments of buildings and structures in town are determined by the Board by applying a replacement cost schedule which was initially prepared by the state for the use of Boards of Assessors back in 1973. As you might imagine, costs have increased dramatically since 1973, and to keep pace, the state has authorized assessors to use a factor (adjustment for inflationary values) or a multiplier applied to the 1973 schedule to bring the old figures up to date. The permissible factor varies with the region of the state: the factor has been higher in the eastern part of the state than out here for the most part. Our Board has held this factor fairly low over the years, with increases of 25% and 15% several years ago. The "time-location modifier" in use in Monterey over the last few years has been 1.45. The state's recommendation now is that we go to the January 1, 1986, factor for this region, 2.1. That means that when we measure up a house or other structure and determine its quality of construction, we will be looking to the replacement-cost schedules and multiplying the given figure by 2.1. This will result automatically in an increase in assessment for every house and other major structure in town of about 30%, even structures that have not changed or been added to at all. Houses with new additions, or remodeling, or other improvements will increase more. This increase in assessment should not be cause for alarm for homeowners, though: if the other elements of taxation remain fairly constant, that is, if spending by the Town remains roughly the same, the increased assessments, spread proportionately across town, will serve only to reduce the tax rate, with the end result of a "wash": no increase to an individual's tax bill.

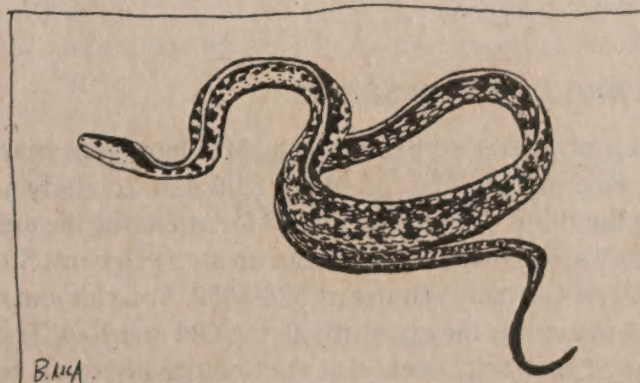
The second innovation suggested by the state is somewhat more dramatic in its impact. After several days of studying statistics in town, including recent sales of property, and after on-site inspection of many parcels in all areas of town, the state, in cooperation with the Board, devised an altogether new formula for determining land value in Monterey. This new formula will affect every parcel of land in town, devel-

oped or undeveloped. The formula has been well tested by application to many parcels in town, and, in fact, we are well on the way to having recalculated the land valuation of every parcel in town. The Board has been pleased with the results: the new valuations reflect nicely the current market value for land here, as evidenced by actual sales through 1986. We have found that small parcels are the least affected by the new formula, inasmuch as the value of the basic building lot in town has been recognized and taxed accordingly through the years. Large parcels of land, parcels with long road frontage, and lakefront properties are the most affected by the new formula. Since the formula is applied individually to each parcel in town, and since very few parcels are alike, the impact on parcels in general is difficult to predict. Again, when valuations go up, and assuming spending remains constant, the tax rate drops. We are not far enough along in the revaluation yet to know exactly how much new valuation will be picked up in these new assessments of large parcels. The more valuation there, the greater the share of tax burden which will be shifted to the owners of large parcels.

The Board of Assessors will be happy to discuss the new assessment of property with owners, and we are planning to schedule several days, hopefully in August, when the Board will be available by appointment, probably using a format of owners' last names beginning with certain letters of the alphabet. Please watch for our announcement of the times and dates of these meetings if you are interested in getting a preview of the Fiscal 1988 tax picture.

— THE MONTEREY BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Peter S. Vallianos, Chairman
William Mielke
Michael J. Banner
Cynthia Weber, Assistant Assessor

The new Land Schedule is on page 2.



CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays: 9:30-10:15 Focus on Church Life through Prayer
10:30-11:30 Morning Worship
Tuesday, August 4 Monthly Prayer Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. at Ray and Mary Ward's.
Wednesday, August 5 Agape Meal: 6:30-8:00 p.m.; soups, salads, bread/crackers.
Friday, August 7 Deacons Meeting: 8:30 a.m. at the Parsonage. NOTE: Morning meeting.
Monday, August 10 Parish Council: 7:30 p.m. at the Parsonage.
Every Thursday morning from 8:00-8:30 a.m. at the church. Meditation.

During Pastor Robert Palin's vacation, August 16 worship will be led by Ardelle Gile; August 23 worship will be led by The Rev. Peter Ives, a minister in the U. C. C. in New Haven.

The Focus on Church Life consultation with the Rev. Tom Boates announced in the July *Monterey News* has been re-scheduled for Saturday, September 12, from 10:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars so that we can make the most of this important event in the church's life.

Update on the WIC Offering of Letters: In the first step of the funding process, Congress passed a budget on June 26 that allows room for the Food Supplement Program for Women, Infants and Children to expand by up to \$150 million, as Bread for the World requested. The next step will be the actual funding, or "appropriation." The crucial decisions are expected in the Senate in September. Follow-up letters to our senators, urging them to appropriate the full amount budgeted, are vital now if we are to get \$150 million . . . and help hungry children. Judith Hauer, our Bread for the World representative in the church, will be glad to speak to individuals in greater detail.



LOCAL BIBLE GROUP MEETS

A group of interested people from Monterey and nearby towns is meeting Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. to study and celebrate the Bible. There is no charge for attending the meetings, and all are invited. You can sign up at the General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052. You can join the group at any time as they go through the Old and New Testaments, book by book, weekly, at the Schulze house on New Marlboro Road.

MONTEREY LAND SCHEDULE January 1, 1987

Town and Lake Buel

1 Ac. or less	\$14,000
1 to 2 Ac.	7,000
2 to 5 Ac.	5,000
5 to 10 Ac.	2,000
10 to 100 Ac.	1,000
Over 100 Ac.	500

Lake Garfield and Other Developable Lakes

1 Ac. or less	\$30,000
2 Ac.	60,000
Plus frontage & beach rights	

Adjustments:

Extra buildings lots (must meet zoning by-laws) = \$5,000

Lake Garfield + \$400 per linear foot waterfront up to 100 LF
+ \$100 per LF waterfront over 100 LF
+ \$10,000 beach rights (improved parcels only)

Bidwell Rd. &

Eaton Rd. + \$600 per LF waterfront up to 100 LF
+ \$200 per LF waterfront over 100 LF

Lake Buel + \$200 LF waterfront up to 100 LF
+ \$50 LF waterfront over 100 LF
+ \$5,000 beach rights (improved parcels only)

Vacant Lots (first 2 Ac.) — 30%

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BEARTOWN

People ask, "Are there any bears in Beartown?"

"Fortunately there are," I answer, "along with deer, bobcat, turkey, grouse, fisher . . ." The list goes on and on, though usually seen only by the curious as well as fortunate observer. Perhaps you have had the pleasure of seeing these animals or other wonderful sights while touring Beartown State Forest. Or perhaps I and others can bring the wonders of Beartown home to you in the pages of the *Monterey News*.

Welcome to a brand-new column about Beartown State Forest. This monthly bit of news is intended to bring Beartown happenings to the Monterey community. As the Supervisor of Beartown for the Commonwealth's Division of Forests and Parks, I am interested in helping the public become more aware of what Beartown is, how it has evolved, and where it is potentially headed as a major natural, cultural, and recreational resource. The history of Monterey and its people is so closely interlinked with that of Beartown that to me the most appropriate place to present this information is in the *Monterey News*. In presenting this column, I hope to serve as coordinator rather than author, gathering material through interviews and guest writing to provide a broad range of knowledge, experiences, and personal insights relating to Beartown.

Incidentally, a Monterey citizen, after having been informed that I was the "Supervisor" of Beartown State Forest, laughed and said, "Only the State could have thought of such an idea as someone actually 'supervising' a forest." Cynical, perhaps, but true. For the books we need titles, but in actuality natural areas, ecosystems, have managed quite well for themselves without, or too often in spite of, human intervention. The reality of the situation, however, is that Beartown is a multiple-use area, and we have a responsibility to see that the recreational use of the forest is both safe and appropriate. There are, by the way, many recreational opportunities available at Beartown, not the least of which are swimming, picnicking, and camping at Benedict Pond (will the person who knows the origin of the name for Benedict/Benidect Pond please stand up?). These recreational activities, as well as the many other management concerns, will be described in greater detail in future articles.

On a more personal note, I would like to introduce to you the other Monterey residents who are presently part of the Beartown management. Foremost is Conrad Ohman, Management Forester for one third of Berkshire County, including Beartown. Connie's professional approach to timber management has long been recognized by his peers as top notch. Connie's present town involvements include chairmanship of the Conservation Commission and membership on the Affordable Housing Committee; he is also scoutmaster of the Monterey-New Marlborough Boy Scouts. Gordon (Butch) Hamm has just recently left Beartown to accept a promotion at Mt. Washington State Forest. A part-time policeman for Monterey, Butch's enthusiasm and experience will be missed by the Beartown crew. The newest addition to our ranks is Christopher (Kip) Makuc. Kip is working with us for the season as part of the Commonwealth's Summer Youth Corps. One of the things that I am working on is a list of all the Monterey residents who have worked at Beartown over the years (and there have been many), for future publication.

If I have been impressed by anything since coming to work at Beartown two years ago it is the impressive legacy that I have become a part of. This resource is overwhelmingly rich in both natural and cultural history. If I can assist in imparting but a portion of that history to you as well as to perhaps rekindle your interest in the Beartown of today and of tomorrow, then I will have fulfilled a big part of my mission.

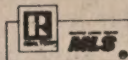
If you have any subjects in mind that you would like to see covered or, better yet, if you or someone you know is the source of some tasty tidbits of Beartown history or other information, please let me know (and if someone did stand up for the Benedict/Benidect Pond name origin then please sit back down and give me a call—I would like to know). Call Beartown at 528-0904 for comments and suggestions.

Updated Beartown map arriving soon as a *News* insert!

— Tom O'Brien
Beartown State Forest



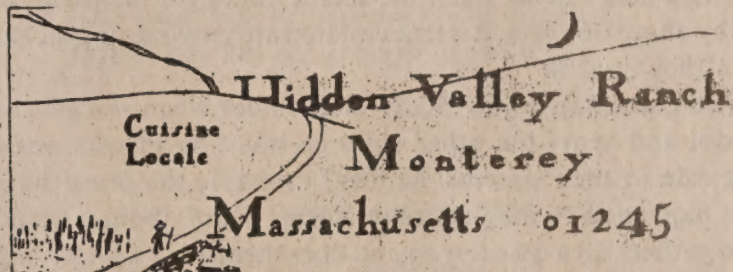
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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Summer extends our day, takes us outdoors, and brings us into close contact with countless natural elements and characters which we never see at other times of year. We love to see the bluebirds, butterflies, rich green woods and meadows full of wildflowers. But we grumble about the heat, mosquitoes, slugs, and weeds. And when we grumble, our children hear us.

Every family must have its idiosyncracies and odd loyalties, I hope. One of the weird things about our family is that for some reason we have nothing against slugs. I could tell you what that reason is, probably, but some of you have read it before in this column, and others might, quite rightly, not care too much. The fact is, slugs are not one of the things we grumble about, and already I see that we are raising up our older daughter to be a slug-lover like us.

We head out the path toward the driveway on a hot, dry day, and Sudi hops from one rock to another, announcing clearly, "Too dry for slugs today. They hiding under leaves." On a rainy day, when the slugs are making their slow progress along our path, she stops to investigate them, pointing out their different sizes and colors and admonishing us to be careful not to step on them. It was thanks to her powers of observation, and to her level of interest, that I saw for the first time in my life a pair of slugs copulating. (I know I wrote all about it a couple of years ago, but I hadn't *seen* it before.) Slugs are hermaphrodites, so this was a very symmetrical affair, and I guess now Sudi is one of the few 2½ year olds around who knows a slug's penis when she sees it. She's got the jump on me by about 36 years; it is true children are growing up quicker than they used to.

What will happen to Sudi's slug values when she gets to school and hears the other children boasting of wide-scale slugicide in their parents' garden? Probably the same thing that happened to me yesterday when I heard about a friend who gathers up a quart or so and does them all in with boiling water. I shuddered, partly for the slugs and partly for my friend. I didn't like hearing about it, and I guess Sudi won't like it either. She will be an oddball that way.

I bet she won't be alone, though. Last week I took a class of ten children on a nature walk, and while we didn't actually snuggle up to any slugs, we did encounter hordes of jumping, flying, crawling and even biting insects in a weedy meadow. I was impressed by the respectful interest every one of the children showed for the living creatures. There were several captures made, all with care and then prompt release. We had one member of our party whose sneakers were wet, whose bare shoulders were bitten, and who said, repeatedly, "I'm not coming back. I don't *like* nature walks." But even she stopped us all, looked around her with marvel and said, "Have you ever stopped in a place like this and noticed how *many* bugs there are?" Everyone was impressed. No one complained, no one grumbled, and to me that means their parents are not

just grumblers and swatters, either. Maybe some of their younger siblings will be in school with Sudi. They'll go out on the playground after a rain and see some fawn-colored terrestrial pulmonate, easing across the open ground on its one big foot, with two sets of tentacles waving gracefully.

Some child will say, "What's that?" The answer will come back, "A slug!" And then the battle will be on.

"Ooh, squish it!"

"NO. Don't hurt it."

"They're *poison*."

"No, they're not."

"Well, they eat up the garden."

"So, you can *move* them."

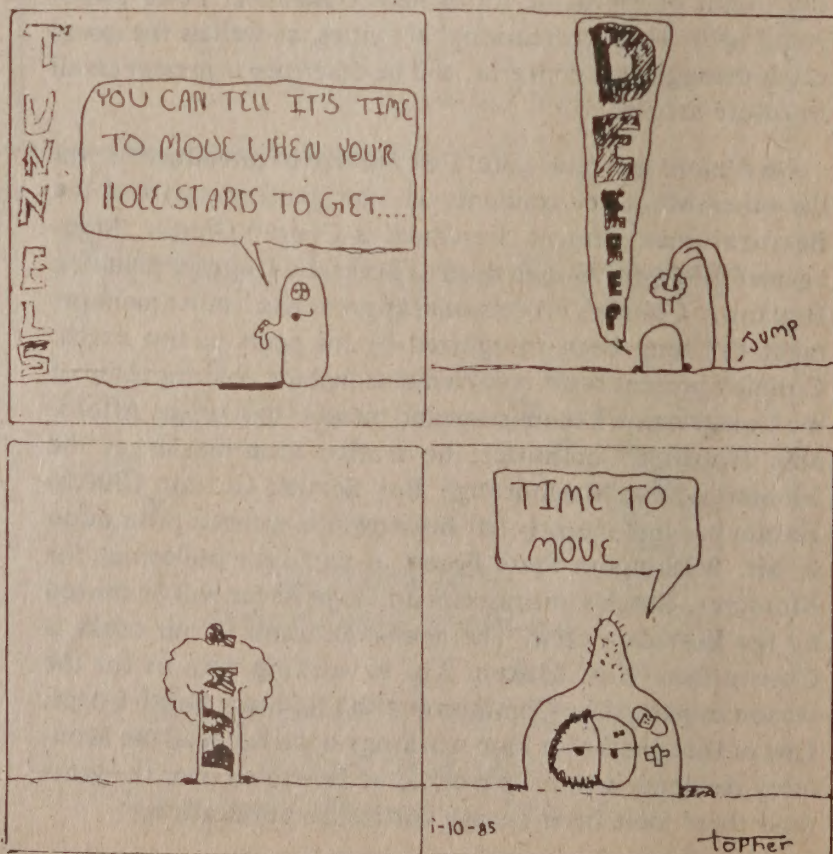
"Yuck, I wouldn't *touch* one."

"Sissy!"

This is the way I imagine Act I, Scene I of *Slug on the Playground* featuring one slug, Sudi Baker, and a host of supporting characters. Actually, I could be all wrong. She could go over to the squishers, for all I know, but even if she does there will always be someone in that host who is for removal rather than squishing, someone whose parents have taught that there is a peaceful alternative and that "yuck" is in the eye of the beholder.

This time of year, when there is so much life around us, is a time of opportunity for study, for appreciation, for nature walking. It is also a time which challenges the imagination. A raccoon in the corn is a challenge, and sometimes the .22 rifle seems the quickest and easiest solution. It is not the only solution, however, and if you yourself are not burdened by qualms of conscience, or just the littlest regret over a life needlessly ended by you, look around first and see if your children are watching. They don't miss a thing.

— Bonner J. McAllester





POEMS

AUGUST

*Summer sleeps in the fields,
Where the day lay warm and bright;
Now the sun, like a copper coin,
Slips into the pocket of night.*

— Dorothy E. Law

THE MOON, A SHIP

*Nodding
along the roads
sheer flower of summer moods
the proud Queen Anne's Lace, shivering, bends
to earth.*

*Softly
hushed whistles low
the wood thrush speaks of plans
sings to his mate of autumn hours
once more.*

*Be still
the wind makes moan
among the trees it calls
and note the moon in black-tossed clouds
a ship.*

*That sigh
that lonesome sound
breathing through every stir
of bough, or bush, or beast tonight
from whence?*

— Sue Moody

WHEN THE TREES ARE CUT DOWN

*The next crop is thorns,
When the trees are cut down.
Blackberries come in.*

*But Nature resents
The wound to the forest—
The bushes are barbed,
They prick in reprisal,
The too eager hands.*

*Then seedlings appear
And grow to be saplings
That shade out the briars.*

*The old wound is healed
By the unarmed, unworried,
Forgiving young trees.*

— Margery Mansfield

AGE OF INNOCENCE

*I took my grandson for a walk today
Along a country road where wild flowers grow.
He touched the blossoms with his baby hand;
And through his wonderment, I understand
There are so many things he wants to know.
I picked a daisy, white, for him to hold.
He held it choicely and I knew it pleased.
He watched the branches high above his head
As summer breezes played among the leaves.
Dear little boy, so innocent and good,
May you through childhood, have your share of fun,
And cruel war be banished from the earth
Before you are old enough to fire a gun.*

— Eleanor Kimberley

HILL COUNTRY

*Hemlock and spruce spike right up
From the rolling bristle of the hardwood blanket.
Wires leave the roadside to loop through the canopy:
Stitching in the woods
Sutures left behind when the operation's over.*

— Peter Murkett



PERSONAL NOTES

Marian Levine has just returned from a three-week vacation in Portland, Oregon, and San Diego, California. The highlight of the trip was a visit with a friend she had not seen in 35 years and had known since the age of 7. She says they stayed up all night giggling and had a wonderful time. Imagine! Marian also visited Mt. St. Helen and Kah-Nee-Ta Village, Warm Spring Indian Reservation, where she thought of our editor, David McAllester, the whole time! Sounds like a delightful trip—welcome home!

Welcome back also to **Anne Marie Makuc** of Main Road, who has returned from a most interesting and wonderful mission with the Marian Fathers, traveling to Poland and Italy.

Bob and Barbara Gauthier spent two well-deserved, super-relaxing weeks at their cottage in York, Maine, and we're glad to see them back looking tan and refreshed. And there may even be a lobster or two left for the rest of us!

The **Mendel** family also enjoyed a vacation in Maine, at Deer Isle. **Mark and Tracey** report the weather was delightful, and **Julian Carlos and Bridget** enjoyed the boats and seals they saw. Welcome back to Monterey, all of you!

Welcome back also to **Jennie Brown**, who spent a lovely week in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, visiting her grandmother, **Mary Anglin**.

Hearty congratulations to **John and Ann Doody Higgins** on the birth of their son, **Colm Francis Higgins**. Colm arrived June 28, weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz., and is now happily at home with older brother **Eoin** and sister **Deirdre**.

Congratulations also to **Tim and Thea Ross** of New Marlboro Road on the birth of their first child, **Keith Scott Ross**. Tim and Thea just recently moved in to the house next to Edith Wilson's. Welcome to Monterey, all three of you!

And congratulations to **Jean Claude Estrade** and **Merry Berger** of Mt. Hunger Road, who recently received a four-star review of their restaurant, Le Chateau, in Tenaflly, New Jersey. Good job! If we're ever in that neighborhood, we'll know where to dine!

Hats off to **Gwendolynne O'Connell**, who has been appointed a student intern in the office of Representative Christopher Hodgkins. She has been assigned to Representative Hodgkins's district office in Lee, where she will work on constituent affairs, legislative research, and other office duties. She is continuing her studies as a graduate student in public administration at Texas A&M University, where she will return after her internship is completed at the end of August.

Seems I inadvertently left out a couple of achievers in my last column. My apologies to **Timber**, golden retriever owned by **Jim Laffey** and **Ken Freeberg**, who received an award for perfect attendance at dog obedience classes in Great Barrington. And **Mambo**, boxer owned by **Maynard and Gale Forbes**, didn't win anything but only missed one class due to surgery and was reported to have added character to the class.

And felicitations to **Dale and Anna Thorn Duryea** of Otis Road, on the arrival, July 22, of a brand-new daughter, Penny Ruth, born at the Berkshire Medical Center.

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to **Jessica Thorn**, who celebrated her fifteenth on July 15.

Congratulations to **Dean Amidon**, whose retirement was announced on July 9 after sixteen years as Highway Commissioner of State DPW District 1. To the imposing list of bridges, highways and other construction for which he has been responsible we would like to add our appreciation for his skillfully conciliatory chairmanship of the Lake Garfield Association since it began.

We owe special thanks to **Bob Gauthier**, hard-working organizer of the Monterey Day race for all of its six years. Bob is to be complimented on a job well done and is to be admired for still having the energy, even after seeing to all the little details, to still run the 4.5 miles himself, and do very respectably at that. Hats off to you, Bob!

As for the Kids' Fun Run, all thirteen entrants made it across the finish line, and there were lots of smiles when they were presented with their ribbons. It was a very respectable trek for them, from Eaton Road to the finish by Greene Park. Five-year-old **Lucy Rosenthal** reported she only had to stop once, and that was to tie her shoe. Trophies were presented to the top male finisher, ten-year-old **Erik Boyer** of Peru, and to the top female finisher, eight-year-old **Danielle Gulick** of Great Barrington. Good running, all of you!

Angela Hearn was top runner in the women's category at the Monterey Day 4.5-mile race, July 19. Hearn, who has a summer home in Monterey, is the third-ranked woman in the country at ten kilometers, and earlier this year ran a 2:39 marathon, the eighth fastest in the world of any woman over 40. Her twin sister, **Chris Greening** of New York City, was the second woman finisher in the Monterey race at 27:55 to Hearn's 26:32. This was 1.24 faster than the women's record she established in 1985.

Don Gulick of Great Barrington was the overall winner at 25:42. With eighty contestants who finished the race, this event, now in its sixth year, is established as a notable Berkshire contest.

Congratulations are in order for **Eleanor Kimberley**, for, as a friend reports, she was the recipient of a plaque of appreciation in recognition of her dedication to the Great Barrington Camera Club at a picnic held recently in honor of Herbert Mueller on his ninetieth birthday. Eleanor has been an active member since the Club was founded in 1949, and she was honored midst loud applause and cheering.

Some of her other photographic honors have been Best of Show in the National Grange Contest, two slides accepted in the International Salons Competition, and three photos in the 1988 calendar to be published by the Southworth Co. of West Springfield. To quote her friend, "We can only wish her more prizes and more joys for the future."

Young **John Mulroy** was very excited about the week-long soccer camp he attended at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Agnes is very happy to have him back home, and we're all glad to have his cheerful self about town again. And we're all glad the camp was a great experience for you, John!

I appreciate the news items people have been giving me. Please, if you have any little news to share, do jot it down and leave it at the General Store, or drop it in the mail to me at Route 23, Monterey, or give me a call at 528-4519.

— Stephanie Grotz



Start of the Monterey Day Race

TOM THORN MAKES DRAMATIC EMERGENCY FLIGHT

Six-month-old Sean Paul McCauley of Springfield had two detached retinas, a condition that requires prompt surgery before the nerve tissue loses its capacity to regenerate. The case came to the attention of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield who quickly ascertained that the nearest doctor who could perform the delicate operation was in Memphis, Tennessee. Since the baby was on oxygen there were problems with a commercial flight to Tennessee, and here a unique organization called the "Flyers" enters the picture. They are a group of 70 Shriners, all of whom have pilot's licenses and 16 of whom own their own planes. Monterey's Tom Thorn, who is a member of the Melha Temple Shriners in Springfield and is one of the "Flyers," was asked to make the flight and his low-wing, single-prop Mooney took off from Barnes Airport July 26 with Sean, his mother Brandi and his grandmother, Patti, aboard.

The "Flyers," organized in 1971, was the first such group of private pilots to make themselves available for emergencies of this sort. Such errands of mercy are not new to Tom Thorn. He has flown doctors from the Shriner hospital to other locations where a particular expertise was needed in a hurry.



SUSAN McALLESTER

Erik Boyer and trophy

MONTEREY LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust will be held in Bidwell Park at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 22 (rain date, August 23); if it rains both days (Heaven forbid), it will be held at the Scheffey's on Wellman Road.

The Trust is in the process of coming up with some new names for their Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will be happy to accept nominations of qualified members before the annual meeting. Please call Joyce Scheffey, 528-0550, or Roger Tryon, 528-0728, with your suggestions for future board members.

Pot-Luck with a Twist

In the spirit of good waste management, it is asked that people bring food that does not require eating utensils of any kind. That includes paper plates and plastic silverware. The Trust will provide serving platters for cookies and whatall. Everyone is welcome!

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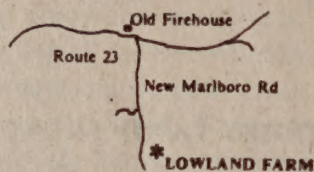
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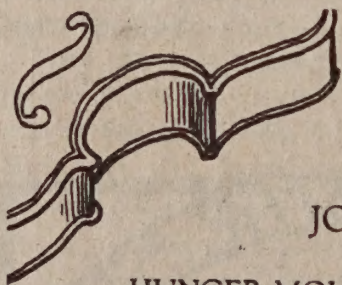
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ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

The 1987 Monterey Arts Festival was a notable success. The weather was perfect, and the crowds were record breaking.

There are many people to thank for their generosity and assistance, and they include the following: the Patrons and Friends of the Arts Council; the Arts Council members and volunteers, especially Barbara Cook and Rosalind Halberstater; the Monterey firemen, especially Chief Ray Tryon; Richard Sheridan, Nancy Brenner, Michèle Miller, Stella Bodnar, Claire Dosick, and all the volunteers who assisted with food serving on Saturday; Joe Baker, John Humphrey, the United Church of Christ, Alice and Arthur Somers, Tom Andrus, Richard Andrus, Neil Orenstein, Maynard Forbes and the Monterey General Store, Joyce Scheffey, Karen Gottlieb-Schulze, Ward's Nursery, Cynthia and Jason Weber; all the artists and performers whose talents provided the core of the Festival. Monterey is fortunate in the number and quality of its artists and of those who appreciate and support the arts.

— Nicky Hearon

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The Monterey Arts Festival
Photos by Susan McAllester



MONTEREY WASTELINES

In Which We Clean House on Short Solid Waste Topics

Don't believe everything you read, even in "Monterey Wastelines." I said last month that if you had your garbage picked up by a commercial hauler you wouldn't need to buy a sticker. That policy has been changed, since it was felt that the haulers could not adequately measure their loads. All residents are now required to apply for the sticker and pay the appropriate fee. You will pay the hauler only for hauling services, as in the past. You will pay the Town fee once a year, to help cover the skyrocketing landfill fees.

Speaking of high landfill fees We heard rumors last Thursday at the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Committee meeting that the big Partika outfit in Hampden County may soon raise their price per ton of solid waste received—a 50% increase! The current price is \$59.50; the rumored price would be around \$90. That's heavy, and that is what the Town would have to pay—over \$1,000 every time the big green box pulls out of the transfer station.

Other interesting things were on the agenda, too, last Thursday. Dr. Eliot Epstein presented the draft report on the feasibility of a Solid Waste Co-composting facility for Southern Berkshire County. The bottom line showed a facility costing about \$4 million to handle all commercial, industrial and residential solid waste (but not demolition debris) in the 14 area towns. The good news, received cautiously by members of the committee, since it seems almost too good to be true, is that the cost for capital and operation of the plant would run somewhere between \$16 and \$24 per ton of waste received. Compare that with the current \$60, or with the likely increases, and you will do well to follow the development of this project.

The Berkshire Recycling Systems, Inc., project is at least temporarily derailed. The opposition to the Leining project has successfully appealed to provincial interests. Berkshire County can send our virulent garbage to Hampden County for years and years, but we will not accept stable materials from Hampden in order to help make viable an advanced and well monitored demolition recycling operation. I hope that in time we will learn to accept responsibility for all of the waste that we produce in our own area, and forget the strange notion that we don't make waste—that our area can be beautiful without facilities to clean up the litter of progress.

The Monterey selectmen have appointed members to a Solid Waste Advisory Committee for the new fiscal year, July 1987 to June 1988. Steve Bohn, Don Clawson, Joyce Scheffey, Bob Thieriot and I will be happy to hear and consider ideas and consult with the selectmen about solid waste problems and possibilities.

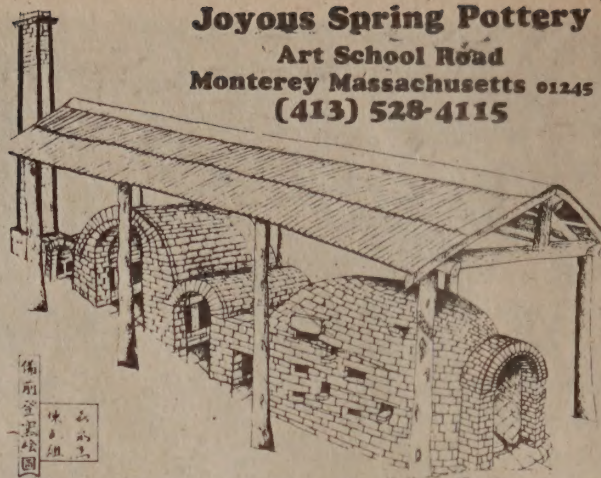
Please return your empties—cut down on solid waste.

— Wayne Burkhardt

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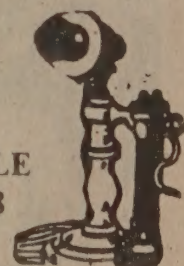
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VOX ED.

Leopold's Land Ethic

Nineteen eighty-seven is the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth, in Burlington, Iowa, of Aldo Leopold. He was an ardent hunter and self-taught naturalist who was one of the first students of wildlife to see that the biosphere must be understood as a deeply interrelated whole. He received a master's degree in forestry at Yale in 1909 and then entered the newly formed U. S. Forestry Service. In 1924 he was instrumental in persuading the Forest Service to set aside the Gila region in New Mexico as a wilderness area forty years before Congress passed the Wilderness Act.

The University of Wisconsin was so impressed by the breadth of vision apparent in Leopold's writing that they established the country's first Chair of Game Management in 1933. Leopold occupied this position until his death in 1948, producing a generation of devoted students and a series of books and essays which are among the great classics of ecological thinking. "The Role of Wildlife in Liberal Education" (1942) and *A Sand County Almanac* (1949), which had its twentieth printing in 1984, are two of the best.

Leopold was an activist in every sense. He was a founder of The Wilderness Society and The Wildlife Society, was on the board of directors of the National Audubon Society, and was president of The Ecological Society. He was an advisor on conservation to the United Nations. He also engaged directly in conservation with axe and shovel. He bought a worn-out farm in the Wisconsin sand country and, with his family, replanted the original prairie grasses and flowers and some thousands of native trees in a laboratory of ecological restoration. He died helping a neighbor fight a grass fire.

He is best known for his conception of a "land ethic." He considered the merely exploitative use of land and the wildlife on it as philosophically untenable and practically self-defeating in much the same way we have come to abhor the use of human beings as property. He pointed out that all ethics are based on community responsibility. "The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land." Occupancy of the land not only confers privileges, it also creates obligations.

Biological science has demonstrated what Leopold's responsive eye first observed. A forest cleared of all but "useful" species of trees is susceptible to epidemic disease and, often, uncontrollable fire. A countryside drained of its "useless" swamps and marshes is subject to drought, fire and, ironically, floods and erosion. A deer population protected from its natural predators is likely to get out of balance and die of starvation. There are now Federal Acts to preserve wetlands and botanical and faunal diversity, but the general population still sees the natural world as full of "varmints" that ought to be eliminated, "waste areas" where anything can be dumped, and "the wilderness" as an adversary that has to be subdued. Leopold observed at the beginning of the ecological movement that unless we all come to feel that we are truly members of the natural community, all the laws on the books and all the warnings of the environmentalists will be in vain.

— David P. McAllester

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Lew and I visited the Forest Row project on Christian Hill Road in Great Barrington last week. It really is an incredible accomplishment. The houses are, for the most part, attractive both inside and out, and tight as drums to boot; a feat incredibly hard to accomplish if one must keep costs down, as we all know.

The houses were designed by Bob Swann of Community Builders, who is also the guiding light of the Community Land Trust and a believer, if ever I saw one. Talk about getting things done! In his soft spoken way, and in the face of enormous obstacles (many of which have been overcome by last-minute community and private support, when state aid fell through) he was determined that affordable housing would be a reality in the Southern Berkshires, and it's happened.

Here follows a letter I picked up while in the office of the Community Land Trust:

Like you, we own a house in the Southern Berkshires to which we retreat from the intensity of city life. It gives us unbelievable pleasure, and it's great for our children. We bought our house four years ago. Its value has at least doubled, maybe tripled, in that period.

While the surge in real estate prices is a boon to us, it is a disaster for those local residents who have not yet bought a house. It has become very difficult for people here to afford either to build or buy in their own community.

As a result, local residents have set up a land trust arrangement whereby they can purchase land in common and find various ways to lower home construction costs.

We are writing to you to propose the establishment of an Association of Second Homeowners to support affordable housing for local people in the Southern Berkshires.

If those of us who can afford to own a second home would invest some of our monies in the local community land trust, at an interest rate of $6\frac{1}{2}\%$, we could supply some of the capital needed for local residents to develop their own first homes.

We're not talking about development which would mar the beauty and peacefulness of the area, because the land trust founders have built in rules that maintain large open spaces and forests around each cluster of homes.

Nor are we talking about a large amount of money. We propose that each member family of the Association of Second Homeowners invest \$1,000 to \$5,000 in the Fund for Affordable Housing, which has been set up to support the projects of the Community Land Trust. Many of us have at least that much currently invested in money market funds, where its earnings are low and it is serving no direct social purpose.

This idea first arose in a conversation with a former tenant who was herself moving into a home in a Land Trust housing project. When she suggested that second homeowners might be interested in helping, instantly we got excited, because there is a deep logic to it, a way for us to return to the people of the Berkshires some of the joys that the area has given us, and a way to build very good relationships between the New Yorkers and Bostonians

and others who own property here and the local residents who would like to own their homes.

Currently there is a need to raise capital of \$100,000 for the second Land Trust project to be completed, on Christian Hill Road in Great Barrington. If just 50 second homeowners would join this Association, with an average investment of \$2,000, it would be a fruitful partnership for everybody.

If you are interested in joining with us to start the Association of Second Homeowners, please call the number below. We may also call you, if we can find phone numbers and time.

It is undoubtedly true that there are other reasons for the second homeowners to be organized, to have an Association which can represent our concerns locally, but at the moment we don't know what those other issues are. We do know it is in our interest to have profoundly good relations with local residents, and that it is appealing to us to take this opportunity to rectify a little piece of the injustice that allows us to own two homes and others in our community to own none.

Please call us if the idea strikes you right.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Stoneman and John Bell
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— Joyce Scheffey

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To the Editor:

Water management plans do not recommend annual draw-down of lakes for purposes of weed control. Such specific pressure on the various plants growing in a lake quickly discourages (or eliminates) only those species which are susceptible to freezing and drying, and it encourages the growth of tough, quick-colonizing (often "introduced") species of weeds which *can* withstand drawdown. Studies such as the Upper Housatonic Water Quality 208 Plan recommend drawdowns only as an "interim" and "intermittent" measure, one whose beneficial effects are "likely to decline each year."

The effect of lake drawdown upon wildlife is similar. It kills off species which depend upon a constant water level. Fresh-water invertebrates, amphibians, spawning fish, nesting water-fowl, and mammals such as beavers and muskrats are not adaptable to seasonal changes in water level. Individuals are killed, populations disappear, and the diversity of wildlife around our lake grows less.

We all like to feel we have some control over our lives and our circumstances. But it is wise to examine the causes of our distress, in this case an oversupply of nutrients to the lake, and to approach the problem where it begins rather than to treat its symptoms, in this case the flourishing of pond weeds. To be effective requires a good understanding of the problem, and I'm afraid that when a stop-gap or interim control (Dean Amidon called it a "holding pattern" at a Conservation Commission meeting last October) is available, we may not keep looking for a real solution.

To change the water quality of the lake, to stop or reverse eutrophication, is a tough order which will require study, cooperation, plenty of money, and some luck. Drawdown is easy and free, but it kills wildlife and does not control eutrophication of the lake.

Sincerely,

Bonner J. McAllester

To the Editor:

We do enjoy keeping up with happenings in Monterey, through the *Monterey News*. It doesn't seem possible that 24 years have passed since we were married (July 15, 1963) at Brookbend Inn and took over the operation of the Inn as the new owners. We plan to visit Monterey again just a few days after Labor Day.

Thank you for keeping us on the mailing list.

— John and Margaret Higgins

To the Editor:

The recent "Monterey Wastelines" columns by Wayne Burkhart are an excellent addition to the already amazing *Monterey News*. These articles keep us advised in a very lucid manner of the Solid Waste Committee's progress on a fundamental environmental issue; moreover, they are well written, with wit and style.

Keep up the good work, Wayne.

— Joe Baker

To the Editor:

I am immersed in my last issue of the *Monterey News* here in Chehalis, WA. Whether I am sitting on a Key West beach, walking through mud on So. Padre Island in So. Texas, munching on a burrito in Reynosa, Mexico, taking pictures of Indian children feeding my three dogs, in front of their 400-year-old adobe apartments in Taos, NM, watching Gila Indians, in full feathers, dance in Casa Grande, AZ, reminiscing with long-time friends on the desert of Yuma, listening to the sea lions on the beach in Monterey, CA, hanging onto the cable car, as we descend to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, staring at Mt. Shasta, as my camper goes up and up in No. CA, or enjoying *Beggars' Holiday* at the Shakespeare Theatre in Ashland, OR — your paper takes me right back to Monterey, MA.

Thank you, good news people, for keeping us nomads informed about things going on at home — things I should know about. Thank you. Check enclosed.

— Joan W. Reed

To the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Afghan Refugee Clothes Drive over the Fourth of July weekend. A special thanks to the members of the Park Commission and the Grange for permitting us to park our vehicle at the entrance of Greene Park.

For those who would like further information and/or would like to make a contribution for medical supplies, please call or write to: Free Afghanistan Alliance, 12 Arrow Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; (617) 547-1114.

The book *Caught in the Crossfire* by Jan Goodwin will give anyone interested a very enlightening view of the current situation in Afghanistan. Ms. Goodwin spent several months undercover investigating.

— Anne Marie and John O'Connor

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EUGENE W. O'CONNELL
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From 1976 to 1980 and again from 1981 to 1983, Gene O'Connell was the moderator of Monterey's Town Meetings. None of us will forget his calm, steady presence in that important service to the running of our Town affairs. He was a member of the Democratic Town Committee, and he was a teacher of long service in our community, serving for twenty years at Lee Central School until his retirement last March. Before that he taught at Mount Everett Regional School and the former Lee Academy and Rockwell Academy, both in Lee. He also had worked for Johnson & Johnson in Danbury and had been a salesman for Allstate Insurance.

He was born in Cambridge and graduated from Rindge Technical High School and, in 1950, from Holy Cross College in Worcester. He received a master's degree from Westfield State College. He married the former Georgiana Conklin in 1950, and they lived in Stanford and Danbury, Connecticut, before settling in Monterey in 1961. During his service in the navy in World War II, he was awarded five battle stars.

He leaves his wife; six daughters, Suzanne B. O'Connell of College Station, Texas, Lynne M. Gardner of Cleveland, Ohio, Adrienne A. O'Connell and Mary-Anne O'Connell-Pope, both of Pittsfield, Gwendolynne G. O'Connell of Monterey, and Joanne C. O'Connell of Brookline; two sisters, Margaret Coyne and Mary Healey, both of Watertown; and two grandsons.

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

On Monday, July 20, members of the Conservation Commission met with the selectmen and representatives from the Lake Garfield Association to discuss procedure for the draw-down of the lake. The DEQE has advised the Conservation Commission that since drawdown does constitute "altering of a wetland," the usual paperwork for such things should be filed with the Conservation Commission.

This will consist of a Notice of Intent from the Selectmen describing what they intend to do (draw down the lake level for the winter) and will be followed by a Public Hearing with the Conservation Commission. The Public Hearing is a meeting for gathering pertinent information about the proposed project. After the Public Hearing the Conservation Commission will make an Order of Conditions, describing the way in which the project should or should not proceed, for the protection of water quality, as directed by the Wetlands Protection Act.

The date for the Public Hearing on this project will be posted in town and in the papers. The next regular meeting of the Conservation Commission will be August 10, 7:30 p.m., in the Town Offices.

— Bonner J. McAllester

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 observed its Annual Youth Night on July 15, 1987. Young people from neighboring granges conducted the meeting, furnished a delightful program, and had a Fund Raiser for national and state youth projects. They also helped with refreshments. The Women's Activities Committee and the Youth Committee will hold a food sale and a white elephant sale in August, the date to be announced.

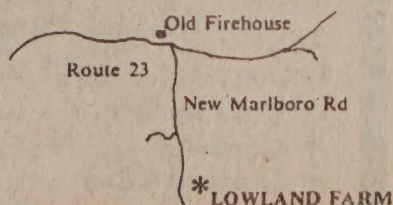
Visiting dignitaries were Constance West, a member of the Assembly of Demeter, and Special Deputy Alicia Brazie. Worthy Master Tolitha Butler and Worthy Lecturer, Mary Wallace will attend Berkshire South Pomona #25 program planning at Deputy Peter Martin's home July 17.

The next meeting will be August 19. Ethel Warner, Agricultural Committee, will be in charge of the program. It will include vegetable, flower and fruit contests. Great Barrington Grange #265 will be our guests.

— Mary Wallace

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BERKSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

The Berkshire County Youth Fair will be Saturday, August 15, 1987, at the 4-H fairgrounds, off Holmes Road, Pittsfield, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Deadline for entries, August 7. This fair is by and for area youth and includes educational and recreational demonstrations as well as participation exhibits. No entrance fee. Join us at the Berkshire County Youth Fair. For information, call 448-8285.

SCOUT NEWS

Four members of the Monterey-New Marlboro Scout Troop — Michael Ohman, Kip Loder, Danny Lowe and Chris Callahan — have recently returned from a week at Camp Chesterfield, in Chesterfield, Massachusetts. Scout Master Conrad Ohman accompanied the group. The activities included swimming and other sports and much hard work toward the earning of merit badges in various aspects of scouting.

Early in July the troop worked with the New Marlboro Library helping get ready for the library's annual book sale.

— Conrad Ohman

PROGRAM FOR PEACE

WANTED: Anyone interested in helping to work on a program for peace, here in Monterey, before summer's end. Please contact Mary Ward at 528-9243 or Bernie Kleban at 528-4187.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mondays, Aug. 3, 10, etc. — Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on Marlboro Road, 8:00 p.m. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Friday, Aug. 7 — Deadline for entries in the Berkshire County Youth Fair. For information or a premium list call the 4-H office at 448-8285.

Saturday, Aug. 8 — Square and Contra Dance, New England-Style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, caller; music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults \$3.50, children \$1.00 to dance until intermission. Information: (413) 528-9385 or (518) 329-7578.

Daily, Aug. 3-7 — Swimming classes at the Town Beach. Call Tom Rosenthal at 528-9380 for information.

Saturday, Aug. 8 — First meeting of the Tennis Committee, at Bidwell Park, 10:00 a.m., to discuss recent developments and future plans. We need your expertise. Call Tom Rosenthal, 528—9380 for more information.

Daily, Aug. 10-14 — Swimming classes; see above.

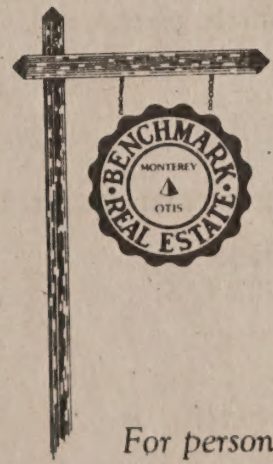
Saturday, Aug. 15 — Berkshire County Youth Fair at the 4-H Fairground, off Holmes Road, Pittsfield, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For information about entries (no fee), call 448-8285.

Saturday, Aug. 22 — Monterey Land Trust Annual Meeting in Bidwell Park at 2:00 p.m. See notice elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 22 — Square and Contra Dance by Mountain Laurel. See Aug. 8, above, for details. This second dance of the month is for people who have done it before.

Wednesday, Aug. 26 — Community Supper in the Social Room of the Monterey Church at 6:30 p.m. You'll never know until you get there what wonderful potluck dishes your neighbors will bring. Bring one of your own and come prepared for an unusual entertainment as well.

Saturday, Aug. 29 — Lake Garfield Association Meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the dam site on Beartown Mt. Road. This is the last meeting of the season.



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Four-inch size (4" x 3 5/8")...10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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